

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL *NEWS*

**April 2004
7:30 PM**

“Legislative Update”

Braddock District Council Meeting Schedule 2003–2004

April 13, 2004	Agenda
7:30	Welcome and remarks by Chair
7:35	Comments by Supervisor Bulova
7:45	Update by members of the Northern Virginia Delegation
8:15	Business Meeting
9:00	Adjourn

Dates of Meetings

April 13, 2004
May 11, 2004
June 8, 2004 Picnic

Location of Meetings

Braddock District
Meeting Hall
9002 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015

From the Chair:

Now that we've heard all about the proposed Fairfax County budget at the March meeting, it's time to hear about the state budget—or lack thereof—at the April meeting. This is the occasion when our legislators review the General Assembly session. This year there might be a twist: the General Assembly may still be in session in April! If this is the case, we will try to come up with an alternate presentation for the April meeting.

It's time for another plug for the Best of Braddock awards. We have received only a couple of inputs. Yes, the deadline is May, but why wait? There are many categories to choose from. Please talk this up in your communities and see if we can't get a number of good nominations this year. On the subject of awards, we will convene the Citizen of the Year panel in April/early May to review the nominees. Both the “BOB” and COY awards will be presented at the annual Braddock District picnic meeting in June.

And speaking of June, that is the end of our year, which means we will need to hold an election for next year's officers. Please contact either Secretary Jeff Nolan or me if you are interested in taking your turn to serve in one of the required offices. You won't have to take part in a primary, raise campaign money, or go on the stump for votes. And we might even double the pay of all officers next year! Your participation will help to ensure that the BDC remains an active force representing the issues of all the communities comprising the Braddock District.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see a listing of Supervisor Bulova's appointees to the numerous Boards, Committees, and Task Forces that provide very direct citizen input into the running of Fairfax County. As one of these appointees, I can say from personal experience that it is very educational, and also inspirational, to see just how much citizens can influence how things are done. It seems to me to be

the essence of the democratic process. Working directly with County staff personnel, members of these appointed bodies get to see firsthand and, in essence, drive the mechanics of our large, complex—yet responsive—County government. At present, there aren't many vacancies. However, from time to time, Supervisor Bulova will need to name someone to something. Please look over the list. If there is an appointed body that you think that you might like to serve on, or if a new one is announced, please let Sharon know of your desire and availability to serve.

Things continue to perk along at Laurel Hill. Please see the article below.

In closing, two administrative items: 1) please provide our Secretary, Jeff Nolan, with updated association information (officers, phone numbers, e-mail, mailing address, etc.) 2) please pay the 2004 dues (covering from last September to this June). Treasurer Ivan Dietrich will be glad to take your money. We don't need much, but we do need some, to conduct the business of the Council. The application form was in last month's newsletter. If you need another, please contact Ivan or else Ronnie in Sharon's office

See you at the April meeting.

Bob Cosgriff, Chairman

SUPERVISOR BULOVA'S CORNER

Budgets are not about numbers, they are about philosophy. When adopting a budget, a jurisdiction sets its funding priorities and defines its culture. It is the time when we hear most from our constituents.

The following is a summary of the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget, which was the subject of our last BDC meeting. Public Hearings are scheduled for the evenings of March 29, 30 and 31.

FISCAL YEAR 2005 BUDGET SUMMARY & TRENDS

Budgets are not about numbers, they are about philosophy.

The Fairfax County Budget tells the story of:

Our struggles and challenges

Our priorities

The culture of our community

The Basics of Fiscal Year 2005 Budget

Tax Rate is advertised at **\$1.16**

Total General Fund Revenue Receipts is \$2.7 billion, an increase of 6.57% over FY 2004

Combined School Transfer and General County Spending = \$2.7 billion

An Increase of 4.47% (\$117 million) over FY 04

School Transfer = \$1.3 billion (Fairfax County funds 75% of School Budget)

An Increase of 6.57% (\$81.5 million) over FY 04

(School Board has requested an increase of 9.7 %, \$120 million over FY 04.

To close gap an additional \$39 million would be needed)

General County Spending (Non School Transfer) = \$1 billion

An Increase of 2.5% (\$24.5 million) over FY 04

Where it Comes From

Our revenue comes from a variety of funding sources: Real Estate Taxes, Property taxes, Business license fees, 1% of the sales tax, fines, permits and fees.

In FY 2001 50.7% of our revenue was from the Real Estate Tax.

In FY 2005 60.7% of our revenue is from Real Estate Taxes.

Over the past few years, Revenue from Real Estate taxes has been the only revenue source growing.

In FY 2005, Excluding Real Estate Taxes, all other revenue categories (combined) decrease approximately \$1 million.

- Absent Real Estate Tax, 90% of County revenues are capped, limited or controlled by the state.
- If Fairfax County had the same taxing authority and tax rates as the cities of Fairfax, Alexandria or Falls Church, it could realize up to \$82 million more in revenue that could be used to reduce the real estate tax rate by 6 cents

Since FY2002, more than \$50 million in State Aid to the County has been cut This is equal to about 4 cents of the real estate tax rate.

THIS IS THE FOURTH YEAR OF THIS TREND

Where it Goes

53% (\$1.3 billion) of our budget goes to the Schools as the School Transfer and Debt Service for School Construction.

Our second highest expenditure is public safety 11.9% (\$325 million)

Then:

- Health & Welfare **11.4%** (\$313 million)
- Employee benefits **6.4%** (\$168 million)
- County Debt Service **3.7%** (\$100 million)
- Transfers (i.e. County Transit, VRE, Metro, other) **3.6%** (\$98 million)
- Central Services – Info technology/Tax Admin./Finance **2.4%** (\$66 million)
- Parks/Recreation/Libraries **2.3%** (\$64 million)
- Public Works **1.9%** (\$53 million)
- Community Development – Planning & Zoning, EDA, etc. **1.5%** (\$41 million)
- Legislative/Executive – County Executive, County Attorney, Board of Supervisors, Clerk to the Board **0.9%** (\$24 million)

The Story

- The Fiscal Year 2005 Budget tells the story of our struggle to keep up with a **growing population** (equivalent to annexing three Cities of Fairfax since the year 2000.) Should the Advertised Budget be adopted, only 157 net new positions will have been added to the County's total position count since 1991. To accommodate growth, this Budget funds :
 - A new Fire Station in the Fairfax Center Area - \$1.7 million
 - 2 New SACC Centers \$380 thousand
 - Expanded Teen Centers
 - Cub Run RECenter in Western Part of the County
- The Advertised Budget Addresses **Changing Demographics** as Our Citizens Age:
 - One New and One Expanded Senior Center
 - FASTRAN services for 50 additional Seniors participating in Congregate Meals Program
 - Retirement Funding & Health Benefits
 - Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled
- We Struggle to Meet the Needs of the **School System** 53% of our County Revenue is proposed to be transferred to the School System. County Revenue funds 75% of the School Budget, with only 23% coming from the Commonwealth. **Education is the Board of Supervisor's Highest Priority.** However, the Portion of Funding Going to the Schools Has Been Growing so Dramatically, that other County Services Have Begun to be Under Funded.

To Close the \$39 million gap between the School Board's Request and the County Executive's Recommended Budget, the funding would have to be taken from the General County Side of the Budget, and/or a Tax Rate Reduction Will Not be Possible.
- This Budget Reflects to Funding Needs to Address **Threats to Our County's Safety:**

- Homeland Security
- Hurricane Isabel
- West Nile Virus, and Other Communicable Diseases
- Immerging Gang Activity
- Challenges with Staffing 911 Dispatchers & Paramedics
- Clean Water & Air

- Our County Works in **Partnership** with Many Non-Profit Service Providers to Address the Needs of Our Citizens. As part of the Funding Pool process, Community Need Priorities are Adopted each year. Applications for Funding are Evaluated According to an Organization's Ability to Address and Deliver Upon These Priorities.
- Consolidated Community Funding Pool \$9 million
- **The State Budget** - The General Assembly has adjourned without adopting a Budget for the next two fiscal years. This will affect both General County and School Programs and Services.

FY 2005 revenue from the Commonwealth for all funds, including schools is \$678 million. Of that \$333 goes to the schools. 23% of the School Budget comes from Commonwealth.

\$206 million is supposed to come to the County for reimbursement for the Personal Property Tax Phase- out.

To help us understand the magnitude of the total \$678 million, this amount would be equal to 47 cents on the real estate tax rate.

OUR CHALLENGE, WITH NON-REAL ESTATE TAX REVENUE AND STATE AIDE DECLINING, IS MEETING THE NEEDS OF A GROWING AND CHANGING POPULATION, WHILE KEEPING OUR COUNTY AN AFFORDABLE AND DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE.


The budget can be found on the Web at:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb>

Public Hearings are scheduled for:

March 29th, 2004 7:30 PM
 March 30th, 2004 7:30 PM
 March 31st, 2004 7:30 PM

The County Executive's Advertised Budget will be "Marked Up" on April 19th, 2004, with formal Adoption on April 26th.

Sincerely,


 Sharon Bulova

Laurel Hill news

The Laurel Hill Task Force is in the process of setting up an Educators' Panel to provide insights and recommendations on possible "world class" uses of the Central Maximum facility on Silverbrook Road. This panel will be similar to the one convened last year that involved the Urban Land Institute (ULI). This earlier panel developed a visionary plan for a mixed housing/retail "village" concept. At the public hearings, which were attended mostly by South County residents, there was objection and opposition to the idea of any housing on the site. The detailed financial feasibility studies performed by the County's prime contractor on Laurel Hill substantiated the ULI's assessment that the only way to create "net positive value" for the land would be through a mixed use development. This is important because neither the County nor the Commonwealth has any money for developing the site. One of the Task Force principles is that any adaptive reuse be self-sufficient. There are very high costs involved in developing necessary infrastructure and in adapting old, non-code buildings to new uses. And the necessity to abide by preservation guidelines adds to the complexity of the equation.

Virtually any type of reuse will require amendments to the Comprehensive Plan; some reuses might even involve negotiations with the Federal government on the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding that was executed by numerous parties when the land was turned over to Fairfax County. These are issues that we will have to face when the time comes. In the meantime, the County is spending about \$2 million a year to preserve and protect the entire 2,000+ acres site (most of it destined to be parkland). But the big costs are where the buildings are. So it is imperative to get a concept or concepts to the BOS so that the County can go out with a Request for Interest (RFI) and then a Request for Proposal to attract a master developer to take whatever concept appears to meet all the guidelines, and begin to make it a reality.

While much is happening at Laurel Hill, there is a whole lot that remains. This will be a many-year project. But good things are underway already. Please keep informed via the County website

(search for "Laurel Hill" or click on "Planning and Zoning") at (www.fairfaxcounty.gov) (you will be directed to the additional address: [/cex/adaptivereuse.htm](http://cex/adaptivereuse.htm), which is our home page. You can also call me at (703) 764-0720 or e-mail me at: bandjcoz@cavtel.net.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the February meeting will be posted on the web when available.

The Braddock District Council of Community Associations (BDC) provides a forum for representatives of residential community associations to express their views on major issues of common concern. The BDC is a section 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation, with geographic boundaries coterminous with the Braddock magisterial district. Meetings of the BDC are open to representatives of all homeowner, tenant and civic associations in the Braddock District. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. The mailing address is:

c/o Braddock Supervisor's Office
9002 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015-1608

The Office telephone is 703-425-9300.

Chairman – Bob Cosgriff (Hickory Farms)
703-764-0720

Vice chair – Janyce Hedetniemi (Oak Hill)
703-978-8095

Treasurer – Ivan Dietrich (Woods of Ilda)
703-323-1881

Recording Secretary – Jeff Nolan (Bonnie Brae) 703-426-4761

Corresponding Secretary – Brenda Cammauf (Heritage Court)

Internet address:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/bos/bd/

Braddock District Appointees Serving You

The following citizens serve on the boards, authorities and commissions listed to represent your concerns and interests. If you are interested in participating more fully in local government by serving as an appointee, please contact the supervisor's office at 703-425-9300.

Ms. Jane Gwinn	A. Heath Onthank Award Selection Committee
Mr. Ryan P. Kelly	Advisory Social Services
Mr. James H. Scanlon	Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board
VACANT	Airports Advisory
VACANT	Animal Services Advisory
Mr. Augustus Chidester	Athletic Council
Mr. Joseph E. Jozefczyk	Athletic Council
Mr. Mervin Dizenfeld	Board of Building Code Appeals
Mr. Paul Kraucunas	Board of Building Code Appeals
Mr. Thomas J. Schroeder	Board of Building Code Appeals
VACANT	Board of Equalization of Real Estate Assessments
Mr. Daniel P. Jackson	Chesapeake Bay Exception Committee
Ms. Janet Reimer	Child Care Advisory Council
Mr. Charles Dane	Comm. on Organ and Tissue Donation
Ms. Terry Wanbaugh	Commission for Women
Ms. Theresa Adcock Gaffney	Commission on Aging
Ms. Iona Levin	Community Action Advisory Board
Ms. Marilyn Blois	Consumer Protection Commission
Mr. David Bulova	Consumer Protection Commission
Mr. John Theodore Fee	Consumer Protection Commission
VACANT	Community Improvement Adv
Mr. Michael Brennan	Countywide Non Motorized (Trails)
Mr. Rashad Khan	Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Mr. Chet McLaren	Environmental Quality Advisory Committee
Mrs. Pamela Barrett	Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
Ms. Ann Zuvekas	Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
Mrs. Jessica Burmester	Fairfax-Falls Church Com. Services Board
Mr. John R. Clark	Health Care Advisory Board
Ms. Peggy Kugler	Health Systems Agency Board
Mr. Bud Mayo	History Commission
Mr. Raymond Burmester	Human Services Council
Mr. Lee G. Draznin	Human Services Council
Mr. Paul G. Leslie	IT Policy Advisory Committee
Ms. Janet Muldoon	Juv./ Domestic Rel. Court Advisory Council
Mr. Robert W. Cosgriff	Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse
Mr. Charles Fegan	Library Board
Ms. Brenda Greene	Northern Virginia Regional Commission
VACANT	Oversight Comm. on Drinking and Driving
Ms. Winnie Shapiro	Park Authority
Ms. Suzanne Harsel	Planning Commission
The Rev. Ronald Christian	Redevelopment and Housing Authority
Mr. Harold Pyon	Small Business Commission
Mr. Robert Griendling	Telecommunications Land Use
Mr. John Paul Fuller	Tenant Landlord Commission
Mr. Michael Naeve	Tenant Landlord Commission
Mrs. Janyce Hedetniemi	Transportation Advisory Commission
Mr. Michael J. McMahon	Tree Commision
Mr. Paul Andino	Water Authority

